Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 01070 011651Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------117330 011652Z /43
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S E C R E T CARACAS 1070

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: SREF, PINR, VE, US, PL
SUBJECT: POLISH ASYLUM SEEKER

REF: STATE 25596

1. POLCOUNS MET WITH HABDAS EVENING OF JANUARY 31 FOR THREE HOURS. IT APPEARS THAT HABDAS BELIEVES THAT WHEN HE RETURNS TO POLAND HE WILL EITHER FIRED FROM THE POLISH DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OR TRANSFERRED TO SOME MINOR JOB IN SOME OTHER MINISTRY. HABDAS CITED A NUMBER OF INDICATIONS THAT HE IS NO LONGER CONSIDERED RELIABLE (E.G. NOT BEING ALLOWED TO READ MANY CABLES THAT CONCERN HIS AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY, NOT BEING INVOLVED IN THE PLANNING OF UPCOMING VISITS TO VENEZUELA OF POLISH MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND MINES, LACK OF REPLY TO NUMEROUS LETTERS HE HAS ADDRESSED BOTH TO FOREIGN MINISTRY AND TO PERSONAL FIRENDS IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE AS TO WHY HE IS BEING RECALLED EARLY). HABDAS CLAIMS THAT POLISH DIPLOMATIC SERVICE IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY STAFFED WITH SECURITY TYPES OR WITH STRONG COMMUNIST PARTY ACTIVISTS. HE ADDED THAT HE HAS BEEN CRITICIZED FOR NOT BEING MORE INVOLVED WITH THE OFFICIAL COMMUNITY AT
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 CARACA 01070 011651Z

THE POLISH EMBASSY IN CARACAS.

2. POLCOUNS EXPLAINED TO HABDAS THAT USG IS PREPARED TO GRANT HIM AND HIS FAMILY PAROLE BUT THAT UNLESS HE GOES TO US WITH HIS WIFE AND FAMILY, THERE IS LITTLE CHANCE THAT HE WILL EVER BE REUNITED WITH THEM IN THE US. HE ADDED THAT USG CAN DO LITTLE THAT WOULD BE EFFECTIVE IN ACHIEVING REUNIFICATION.

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

3. POLCOUNS BELIEVES THAT HABDAS HAS MADE THE DECISION
TO SEEK ASYLUM BUT THAT HE HAD NOT PLANNED TO TAKE HIS
WIFE AND CHILD WITH HIM. HE ADDUCED A NUMBER OF REASONS,
SOME PERSUASIVE, OTHERS ALMOST FRIVOLOUS UNDER THE
CIRCUMSTANCES, FOR NOT TAKING HIS WIFE WITH HIM. POLCOUNS
REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED TO HIM THAT USG WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO
BE OF MUCH HELP IN REUNITING HIM WITH HIS WIFE AND DAUGHTER
SHOULD THEY GO BACK TO POLAND. HE CONTINUED TO ASSERT,
ALTHOUGH WITH SHAKEN CONVICTION, THAT HE WAS SURE IT WOULD WORK OUT.

4. HABDAS WAS NOT TOO UPSET WHEN TOLD THAT USG COULD NOT OFFER
HIM LANGUAGE TRAINING AND SEEMED HEARTENED TO LEARN THAT A VOLUNTARY
AGENCY WITH EXPERIENCE IN RESETTLEMENT WOULD HELP HIM. HE IS CLEARLY
CONCERNED ABOUT HIS ABILITY TO EARN A LIVING IN THE US. HE ALSO
STATED A NUMBER OF TIMES THAT HIS WIFE HAD NEVER LIVED ABROAD BEFORE
COMING TO VENEZUELA AND THAT HE FEARED IT WOULD BE HARD FOR HER
TO ADJUST TO THE US UNLESS HE HAD A JOB AND A STABLE HOME ENVIRONMENT
TO OFFER HER.

5. HABDAS STATED THAT POLISH DIPLOMATS ARE NOT GIVEN THEIR
PASSPORTS UNTIL ONE DAY BEFORE TRAVELLING. HE EXPRESSED WORRY
THAT THE LACK OF A PASSPORT MIGHT HINDER HIS AND HIS FAMILY'S
ABILITY TO ENTER THE US. POLCOUNS TOLD HIM THAT, ALTHOUGH A PASSPORT
WOULD BE DESIRABLE, IT DID NOT PRECLUDE THEIR BEING GRANTED PAROLE
INTO US.
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6. HABDAS SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT GOV MUST BE INFORMED OFHIS
DESIRE TO SEEK ASYLUM IN THE US. HOWEVER, HE REFUSED TO INFORM
THE VENEZUELANS HIMSELF. HE ASKED THAT THE EMBASSY INFORM GOV
(WHEN HE DECIDES TO SEEK ASYLUM) AND ALSO ASK GOV TO PROVIDE
SECURITY FOR HIM AND HIS FAMILY UNTIL SUCH TIME THAT THEY TRAVEL
TO US. IN DISCUSSING POSSIBILITY THAT HIS WIFE AND DAUGHTER MIGHT
TRAVEL TO POLAND AND THAT HE MIGHT SEEK ASYLUM ALONE, HE HINTED
AT THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING TO LEAVE HIS APARTMENT ON VERY
SHORT NOTICE. ALTHOUGH POLCOUNS DID NOT MENTION OR EVEN SUGGEST THAT
HABDAS SHOULD COME TO US EMBASSY IN SUCH
A SITUATION, THAT IS CLEARLY WHAT HABDAS HAD IN MIND.

7. HABDAS PROMISED TO TRY TO PERSUADE HIS WIFE TO SEEK ASYLUM WITH
HIM. HE SAID HE WOULD TALK WITH HER THE EVENING OF JANUARY 31 AND THE
MORNING OF FEBRUARY 1 AND WOULD BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH POLCOUNS
EVENING OF FEBRUARY 1.
VAKY

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20 Mar 2014
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